CLAIMS

1.   A content management apparatus which manages a content stored in a portable medium, the apparatus comprising:

a content storage unit operable to store a content;

5   a backup unit operable to (i) duplicate a content stored in the first portable medium into the content storage unit and (ii) associate the content with a medium identifier of the first portable medium, and store the associated information into a management table inside the content management apparatus, in the case where the content

10   stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backuped into the content storage unit;

a restore unit operable to (i) duplicate the content duplicated in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (ii) replace the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in

15   the management table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is requested to be restored into the second portable medium; and

a management table processing unit operable to transmit, to

20   a reproduction apparatus, reproduction judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction apparatus attempting to reproduce the content stored in the portable medium.

25   2.   A content management apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein in the case where a medium identifier of the portable medium is stored in the management table, the portable medium storing the content that the reproduction apparatus attempts to reproduce, the management table processing unit transmits, to the

30   reproduction apparatus, the reproduction judgment information indicating a permission for reproducing the content.

3.   A content management apparatus according to Claim 1,
      wherein the reproduction judgment information is the
management table.

5   4.   A content management apparatus according to Claim 3,
      wherein the management table processing unit (i) transmits
the management table to the reproduction apparatus, and (ii) stores,
into a management table storage unit, transmission completion
information indicating that the management table has been
10   transmitted, and
          only in the case where the transmission completion
information is not stored in the management table storage unit, the
restore unit duplicates the content duplicated in the content storage
unit into the second portable medium.

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5.   A content management apparatus according to Claim 4,
      wherein the transmission completion information is the
reproduction apparatus identifier.

20   6.   A content management apparatus according to Claim 4,
      wherein in the case where the reproduction apparatus informs
that the management table is not necessary, the management table
processing unit deletes the transmission completion information
stored in the management table storage unit.

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7.   A content management apparatus according to Claim 4,
      further comprising a clock showing time,
          wherein in the case where the reproduction apparatus
requests transmission of the management table, the management
30   table processing unit stores, into the management table storage unit,
an expiration time of the management table to be transmitted, and
          in the case where time shown by the clock exceeds the

expiration time, the management table processing unit deletes the transmission completion information stored in the management table storage unit.

5   8.   A reproduction apparatus which reproduces a content stored in a portable medium, the apparatus comprising:

a request unit operable to request, to a content management apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to 10   reproduce the content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content is stored;

a reception unit operable to receive the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus; 15   and

a reproduction unit operable to reproduce the content only in the case where the reproduction judgment information received by the reception unit indicates a permission for reproducing the content.

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9.   A content management method which manages a content stored in a portable medium, the method comprising:

(a-i) duplicating a content stored in a first portable medium into a content storage unit and (a-ii) associating the content with a 25   medium identifier of a first portable medium, and storing the associated information into a management table inside the content management apparatus, in the case where the content stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backuped into the content storage unit;

30   (b-i) duplicating the content duplicated in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (b-ii) replacing the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in the management

table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is requested to be restored into the second portable medium; and

5   transmitting, to a reproduction apparatus, reproduction judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction apparatus attempting to reproduce the content stored in the portable medium.

10   10.   A reproduction method for reproducing a content stored in a portable medium, the method comprising:

requesting, to a content management apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the

15   content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content is stored;

receiving the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus; and

20   reproducing the content only in the case where the received reproduction judgment information indicates a permission to reproduce the content.

11.   A program for managing a content stored in a portable

25   medium, the program causing a computer to execute:

(a-i) duplicating a content stored in a first portable medium into a content storage unit and (a-ii) associating the content with a medium identifier of a first portable medium, and storing the associated information into a management table inside the content

30   management apparatus, in the case where the content stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backuped into the content storage unit;

(b-i) duplicating the content duplicated in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (b-ii) replacing the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in the management table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the

5   case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is requested to be restored into the second portable medium; and

transmitting, to a reproduction apparatus, reproduction judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction

10 apparatus attempting to reproduce the content stored in the portable medium.

12.   A program for reproducing a content stored in a portable medium, the program causing a computer to execute:

15   requesting, to a content management apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content

20 is stored;

receiving the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus; and

reproducing the content only in the case where the received reproduction judgment information indicates a permission to

25 reproduce the content.

13.   A computer-readable storage medium in which a program for managing a content stored in a portable medium is stored, the program causing a computer to execute:

30   (a-i) duplicating a content stored in a first portable medium into a content storage unit and (a-ii) associating the content with a medium identifier of a first portable medium, and storing the

associated information into a management table inside a content management apparatus, in the case where the content stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backuped into the content storage unit;

5   (b-i) duplicating the content duplicated in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (b-ii) replacing the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in the management table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is

10   requested to be restored into the second portable medium; and

transmitting, to a reproduction apparatus, reproduction judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction apparatus attempting to reproduce the content stored in the

15   portable medium.

14.   A computer-readable storage medium in which a program for reproducing a content stored in a portable medium is stored, the program causing a computer to execute:

20   requesting, to a content management apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content

25   is stored;

receiving the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus; and

reproducing the content only in the case where the received reproduction judgment information indicates a permission to

30   reproduce the content.

15.   An integrated circuit which manages a content stored in a

portable medium, the circuit comprising:

a backup unit operable to (i) duplicate a content stored in a first portable medium into a content storage unit and (ii) associate the content with a medium identifier of a first portable medium, and
5   store the associated information into a management table inside the content management apparatus, in the case where the content stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backuped into the content storage unit;

a restore unit operable to (i) duplicate the content duplicated
10   in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (ii) replace the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in the management table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is requested to be restored into the second
15   portable medium; and

a management table processing unit operable to transmit, to a reproduction apparatus, reproduction judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction apparatus attempting to
20   reproduce the content stored in the portable medium.

16.   An integrated circuit which reproduces content stored in a portable medium, the circuit comprising:

a request unit operable to request, to a content management
25   apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content is stored;

30   a reception unit operable to receive the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus; and

a reproduction unit operable to reproduce the content only in the case where the reproduction judgment information received by the reception unit indicates a permission for reproducing the content.